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THE LATE BARON DUPUYTREN.

THE commencement of Dupuytren's career was tintured with romance. Born of poor and humble parents, on the 5th of October 1777 or 1778, at Pierre Buffiere, in the department of the Haute Vienne, the early years of his life were passed in obscurity ; but fortune destined him for another theatre than that of a country town. As he was one day playing in the public square, with other children of his age, an officer of a cavalry regiment on passing by was struck with the intelligent appearance which he bore, and offered to his parents to carry him to Paris, and there charge himself with his education. The proposal was instantly accepted, and the youth arrived at Paris, in 1790, at twelve years of age. Here his talents and assiduity soon procured him protectors. As early as 1795, being scarcely eighteen years of age, he was appointed demonstrator to the faculty of medicine, which was then reorganized. In 1801 he was nominated to the place of Chef des Travaux Anatomiques, now filled by M. Breschet. In 1803, he received his degree, and at the same time was named assistant surgeon to the *Hôtel Dieu*. In 1812, at the end of a most brilliant concours, he was appointed to fill the chair of operative medicine, vacant by the death of the celebrated Sabatier ; whence, in 1815, he was transferred to the chair of clinical surgery, which he filled during nearly twenty years. Finally, in 1818, he obtained the senior surgeoncy of the *Hôtel Dieu*, and was elected a member of the Institute. The greater part of these appointments were, as M. Orfila remarked in pronouncing a funeral oration at his grave, obtained by brilliantly contested concours, in which Dupuytren had to battle with men of transcendent merit, who also have now reached the head of French medicine and surgery ; hence he was one of the warmest partisans of the concours, which he always defended and upheld, both in public and in private ; though, seemingly, strange to say, the chair which he has endowed with 200,000 francs is, according to *on dit*, to be given to M. Cruveilhier by his express desire. However, this almost excusable wish has a limit which will not include any aspirant for the post.

In November, 1833, the health of M. Dupuytren first gave symptoms of decay. On the 5th of that month he was seized with a slight fit of apoplexy, which soon passed off, but left behind it some difficulty of speaking, and caused a deviation of the mouth towards the right side. The warning could not be mistaken ; but Dupuytren, whose mind was always of a most determined nature, insisted on continuing his duties at the *Hôtel Dieu* ; and it was only by force that his friends and family carried him to Naples at the end of November. He returned to Paris

in May 1833, and immediately resumed his visits and lectures at the hospital, but there presented nothing save the wreck of former greatness, struggling against a fatal disease, and determined to hold out to the last. His tongue, once so eloquent and polished in its language, now faltered at every sentence ; while the remnant of distortion in the mouth gave the most painful expression to his once handsome but cynical countenance. The fatigue consequent upon his attendance at the last concours was, in all probability, the immediate cause of his death, by developing a pleurisy, which was at first overlooked, the brain being considered to be the only organ seriously affected. The existence of effusion, however, soon became too manifest to be denied ; and then were every means that art could use employed to ward the threatening result, but all without success. The fatal disease gradually gained ground, and after eleven days of painful suffering, which was borne with the most heroic indifference, terminated his existence on the 8th of February, at three o'clock in the morning, in the fifty-sixth year of his age.

Dupuytren preserved his intellectual faculties to the last ; and never ceased for a moment to give proof of the possession of that well-tempered courage and disregard for death which were to be expected in a man of his character and disposition, and one who had faced the destroyer under almost every possible variety of circumstance. He continued to give his consultations until within a few days of his death ; and the evening before the occurrence of the fatal event, he made his domestic read "the paper" as usual, in order "that he might carry the freshest news of disease out of this world" (*Afin de porter la haut des nouvelles de ce monde*). Hardly ever was the ruling passion stronger.

Dupuytren has left a large fortune to his only daughter ; about 280,000L He has also left 200,000 francs for the purpose of instituting a chair of pathological anatomy ; and bequeathed his mortal remains to his two friends, MM. Broussais and Cruveilhier, who examined the body on Monday, the 9th, thirty-two hours after death. The *proces-verbal* is published at length by the French journals. The following are the most striking points which it contains :—

*Cavity of the thorax.*—The right side of the chest more developed than the left. On plunging in a trocar, about four pints of troubled serum were evacuated. The pleura at this side evidently inflamed, and the lower portion of the lung changed into a condensed fleshy mass, totally impervious to air. The left side of the chest contained about half a pint of clear serum, and the lung was healthy.

The heart was strong, and sensibly hypertrophied, but well formed ; the cavity of the left ventricle might contain a large hen's egg. The cavity of the right ventricle was still larger ; its parietes were three lines in thickness ; that of the right one six lines : the other parts of the heart were healthy. It is a curious circumstance that Dupuytren always believed that the heart was the seat of his disease. "Let them examine my heart well," he said, "and they will there find the seat of my complaint,—the injury produced by my sorrow and my torments."

*Cavity of the skull.*—Before opening the skull, its external measures were taken with great exactitude. The whole showed that the dimensions of Dupuytren's head were much larger than those of ordinary

heads. The posterior superior portions of the brain were particularly developed. The external appearance of the brain was healthy ; but before being examined, it was given to an artist to prepare a cast. After the mould had been formed, the brain was necessarily drier : it weighed, with the cerebellum and medulla oblongata, two pounds fourteen ounces. The ventricles contained no serum ; but near the commencement of the digital cavity was observed a kind of spot or yellow cicatrix, one inch long, and half an inch broad. This alteration was superficial, and, raised upon the point of the scalpel, showed the medullary substance healthy below. In the centre of the right optic thalamis was a small nucleus of extravasated blood, as large as a grain of hemp-seed. In the part of the corpus striatum outside the thalami, on the right side, was found an excavation, of a brown color and broken edges, that would contain a filbert ; and in the corpus striatum of the left side, an apoplectic cavity of the same magnitude : in both were recognized some cellular filaments, intercrossing one another.

The last respects were paid to the memory of Dupuytren on the 10th of February. The *cortege* was composed of all the professors of the faculty, in their robes of office, of deputations from the *Academy of Medicine* and the *Institute* ; of several peers, deputies, &c. ; and almost all the students of the school accompanied the body to the church of St. Eustache, and thence to Père la Chaise, where orations were delivered over the grave by MM. Orfila, Larrey, Bouillaud, Royer-Collard, and his interne at the *Hôtel Dieu*, M. Tessier. The funeral car was drawn by the students from the church to the tomb, which is not far from the beautiful monument of General Foy.

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#### POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF CUVIER.

[In connection with the preceding notice of the post-mortem examination of Dupuytren, we give the following account, from the *Annals of Phrenology*, of the cerebral peculiarities of another distinguished individual, the late Baron Cuvier.]

This great naturalist was examined May 15, 1832, by Messieurs Orfila, Dumeril, Dupuytren, Allard, Biett, Valençiennes, Laurillard, Rousseau, Andral (neveu) and Bérard. The brain of Cuvier weighed three pounds, ten ounces, four drachms and a half, exceeding the ordinary weight of the human brain by nearly one third, which enormous difference lay almost entirely in the cerebrum ; the cerebellum, pons varolii and medulla oblongata not exceeding the ordinary size of these organs in other persons. No one present, said M. Bérard, to whom we are indebted for these phrenological details, recollects to have seen a brain so crimped, *convolutions so numerous* and crowded, anfractuosities (furrows) so deep, especially in the anterior and superior portion of the cerebral lobes.

It would be an error prejudicial to Phrenology to suppose that the extent of the intellectual faculties can be ascertained by the weight or absolute size of the brain. Experience and reason prove the contrary. The phrenologist must found his judgment upon a comparison of the

different regions with each other, and heads, large in the propensities and animal instincts, are remarkable for the smallness of the anterior lobes of the brain, where the intellect resides.

Nor can we admit that the brain of Cuvier contained *a greater number of convolutions* than ordinary brains. Nature has determined the organs appropriated to the animal economy, and every individual, monsters excepted, has the same number. Hercules had no more bones and muscles than a diminutive Laplander, but his organs were larger, stronger, and endowed with greater activity. Such was the case with Cuvier's brain. Unfortunately no plaster cast of it was taken, as the papers had announced. In order to find the unsearchable clue to his disease, the brain was sliced up, as has been the custom since the days of Vicq-d' Azir, and it was soon reduced to a shapeless mass, in which the eye could no longer recognize anything like human organization. This serious omission, made without the consent of the professor who conducted the examination, would be in some degree atoned for, if we possessed a model of the cranium. We had hoped until the last moment that we should have been able to exhibit this, but all communication with the only copy that exists has been absolutely denied to the phrenological society *by an inflexible will*. But all those who have seen it, all those who were acquainted with Cuvier when alive, know the enormous development of the frontal region compared with the three others. We rarely meet, even among men of genius, with such large organs of Language, Eventuality, Locality, Order, Color, Form, and Constructiveness; and we accordingly find Cuvier reading at an age when other children hardly know how to speak. Drawing was one of his favorite occupations. His memory in every department was prodigious, and his knowledge and acquaintance with foreign languages profound.

These faculties, common, though in an inferior degree, to all who are skilled in natural history, would have given to the forehead of Cuvier an inclination backward, but the prodigious development of the organs of Comparison, Causality and Ideality, raised and enlarged the anterior and superior region of the forehead, the seat of intelligence. Hence those profound investigations, those precise and vigorous descriptions, those learned classifications, those philosophical, lucid and prolific principles, that inimitable spirit of generalization, which distinguishes his works, especially his *Lessons of Comparative Anatomy*, and his *Researches on Fossil Bones*.

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However incomplete may be the notions we have thus given of the cerebral organization of Cuvier, it is none the less evident to us, that this fine organization was one of the most striking proofs of a doctrine against which he had the weakness to pronounce an opinion twenty-five years ago, in his famous Report to the Institute, and (must we say it?) that he might not displease Napoleon, who thought he saw in the discoveries of Gall an "arsenal of gross materialism!" Nevertheless, these two celebrated men were made to understand and esteem each other, and, towards the end of their career, they did each other justice. Gall had already one foot in the grave when Cuvier sent him a cranium "which," he said, "appeared to him to confirm his doctrine of the physiology of the brain." But the dying Gall replied to him who brought it, "Carry

it back, and tell Cuvier that my collection only wants one head more, my own, which will soon be placed there as a complete proof of my doctrine."

It must be interesting to phrenologists to know that a notice of the phrenological development of Cuvier, in the hand writing of Dr. Spurzheim, was found amongst his papers. How the notice was obtained by Dr. S. is not known, but the memorandum is given entire.

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**CASE OF DOUBLE UTERUS.**

**MALFORMATIONS** of the uterus, consisting in a division of the organ into two cavities by a perpendicular septum, are rarely met with in the dead body, and are still more rarely recognized during life. The unfortunate termination of the case we are about to notice, recorded by M. J. A. Le Roy, gives an addition to the interest depending on it in an anatomical point of view.

Erminia Trousin, 19 years of age, menstruated for the first time two years ago, and in a few months afterwards married. About six months back she commenced to feel severe pain in the region of the uterus and vagina, which was aggravated at each menstrual period. The pain was relieved by the horizontal position, but continued to increase every day. On the 1st of May last she consulted M. Le Roy. The menses had appeared for three days, and with them intense pain in the uterus. On examination he found, about an inch above the orifice of the vagina, a hard tumor filling the whole of the true pelvis; the neck of the uterus could not be touched. Externally a hard tumor was felt, extending as high as the umbilicus, perfectly resembling an uterus of the 6th month of pregnancy. The tumor evidently contained a fluid, but the introduction of a sound into the bladder showed that it did not consist of that organ. The nature of the tumor was very doubtful. However, as the patient desired to be relieved, after a consultation with three surgeons of the hospital at Versailles, M. Le Roy opened the most depending part of the swelling, by plunging a trocar into it. Some dark-colored fluid came away. The opening was enlarged by a bistoury, and a great quantity of the same fluid was discharged. The supposed body of the uterus and its vaginal orifice were now distinguished in the upper part of the vagina. For the first four days after the operation the patient's state was most favorable, but on the 19th symptoms of peritonitis set in; the abdominal inflammation made rapid progress in spite of the most active measures, and the woman died on the 22d.

On examination of the body after death, the peritoneum was found actively inflamed, especially in the neighborhood of the tumor. There was no trace of neck to the uterus; but the natural opening lay quite upon the mucous membrane of the vagina. To the left and lower down was the artificial orifice. The body of the uterus presented an inch and a half in breadth, and was terminated on either side by two horns, each a couple of inches long. The cavity of the uterus was opened from the external mouth to the extremity of the left horn, and it was now seen that the uterus was divided into two portions by a perpendicular septum, ex-

tending from its fundus to the inner edge of the utero-vaginal orifice, so that the right cavity had no communication either with the left one or with the canal of the vagina. This was more plainly seen when the right cavity was opened. The fibres of this part of the uterus appeared considerably enlarged ; and at the lower part it formed the enormous pouch which filled the pelvis, and extended into the abdomen.

*Jour. des Con. Med. Chir.*

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MEDICAL REFLECTIONS.—NO. IV.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ON THE INEXPEDIENCY AND INVALIDITY OF GRANTING PATENTS FOR MEDICINES, CONSIDERED IN A MEDICO-LEGAL VIEW.

PATENT medicines have ever been a curse to our country and a stigma on science. They have been one of the most fruitful sources of quackery, which in itself is a public calamity. It is indeed one of the greatest evils under which our happy country groans ; and few, very few, of the unprofessional part of the community, have any idea of the extent of its baleful and fatal consequences. It is thought that war and famine, and “the pestilence that walketh at noonday,” have been far outstripped in the number and extent of victims. Even ardent spirits, the destructiveness of which is now on the wane (thanks to the Temperance Society), must yield to this horrible monster. The effects of spirit drinking are apparent to all, and consequently there is much hope of its being early and permanently arrested. But the genius of quackery stalks abroad in the land, unseen, it is true, in its proper form, and like the midnight assassin, strikes the fatal blow before he is perceived, or, Judas like, betrays with a kiss, or with kind, consolatory promises of health and long life, whilst the fatal poison is assiduously tendered. The credulous are ever at the mercy of these secret executioners, who by the effects of their secret and deadly nostrums, only precipitate the sick man to an untimely grave.

“They shall have mysteries—aye, precious stuff  
For knaves to thrive by—mysteries enough ;  
Dark tangled doctrines, dark as fraud can weave,  
Which simple votaries shall on trust receive,  
While craftier feign belief till they believe.”

The love of money, that “root of all evil,” prompts these cold-blooded murderers on to their work, and however destructive to human health and life their deleterious drugs may be, it matters not with them ; they are entirely irresponsible for consequences. They have no professional character to support, and as soon as their palpable deeds of death are apparent to all, like birds of passage they retire to some distant part of the country to begin their work anew with redoubled fury. On their track, however, follows quackery in other forms ; and as soon as one species is exhausted for want of victims, or of the public confidence, another takes its place, *ut unda impellitur undâ*, and thus large masses of the population are swept away as by the besom of destruction. It is unnecessary to state that most of these illiterate, dangerous, and *interested* empirics, work on patent methods. The great seal of State is necessary to acquire

the confidence of the crowd, and when certificates from persons unqualified to form a correct opinion and from *others interested*, can no longer gain the credence of the people, then the honorable signature of the President of the U. States is exhibited in bold relief. The effect, in many instances, is such that what would be considered by the populace as quackish trash, is then thought to be of a superior order and efficacy.

If legislative protection cannot be extended to the cause of humanity and science, it ought certainly not to extend its strong arm against it. It is said by the wisest of men, that "in the multitude of the people is the honor of the king; and for want of people cometh destruction of the prince." Prov. xiv. 28. As a matter of public policy, all means which tend to cause a decrease of the population, ought to be restrained. Let us now examine for a moment the intent of the patent law. On page 200, 2nd vol. Laws U. S. we find "An act to promote the progress of the useful arts." Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, "That when any person or persons, being a citizen or citizens of the U. States, shall allege that he or they have invented any new and useful art, machine, manufacture or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement on any art, machine or composition of matter, not known or used before the application, and shall present a petition to the Secretary of State, signifying a desire of obtaining an exclusive property in the same, and praying that a patent may be granted therefor, it shall and may be lawful for the said Secretary of State to cause letters patent to be made out in the name of the United States, bearing test by the President of the United States, &c." In Sec. 2nd, of same act, we have these words: "And it is hereby enacted and declared that simply changing the form or the proportions of any machine or composition of matter, in any degree, shall not be deemed a discovery." In Sec. 3rd, it is enacted that every inventor, before he can receive a patent, shall swear or affirm that he does verily believe that he is the sole inventor or discoverer of the art, machine or improvement for which he solicits a patent, &c." Quere—Is it the oath, that "it is a discovery," which entitles the petitioner to a patent? Quere—Would it not be well to refer every doubtful application to a committee composed of the most eminent professors of the art to which the petition refers? The only phrase in the law which by the most forced construction can refer to physic, is "composition of matter." Now it is self-evident that "composition of matter" refers to the arts strictly so called, and cannot be applied to the practice of medicine. A man might get a copyright (a kind of patent) for a chart of the Atlantic ocean, but not for steering a ship across it. A man might get a patent right for the separation of sulphate of quinine from bark as a chemical process, but not for its exclusive application to disease. A single medicine or compound in judicious and skilful hands might be made into a hundred different forms, and adapted to as many states of disease, but not *necessarily* a cure alone for any. It is a necessary prerequisite in all diseases that a due knowledge of the existing state of the patient, and a just diagnosis of his malady, should be exercised by the administrators of medicines intended to relieve him. But can this be done by a patent medicine?

For the ignorant to exhibit a patent medicine to a man who is already struggling under the iron grasp of malignant disease, is like a kind, officious man, who when his friend is engaged in serious battle with his foe, in a dark room, rushes in with a large club and strikes furiously ;—he may strike his enemy, but the blow may fall on his friend. The havoc made by quackery is without intermission—unlike pestilence or the sword, which act only occasionally. The robber who assassinates on the high way leaves the traveller the resource of defending himself, and of being aided by other travellers ; but the poisoner who forces himself, by his unblushing assertions, false as they are, into the confidence of the sick man, is infinitely more dangerous and as just an object of punishment. But a patent right is necessary both in curing the sick and in getting the sick willing to be cured. The hopes of a sick man are willing to be staid on any promise, however absurd or ridiculous it may be; for the mind, like the body, is weak and ever ready to believe whatever is anxiously wished for. “*Num homines facile credunt id quod volunt.*”

The belief in charms and incantations and the healing and secret efficacy of quack medicines, is not confined to the vulgar, but with resistless step it marches into the courts of the great. Quackery, like its follower death, strikes at the door of the peasant and the prince. “*Pallida mors æquo pede pulsat tabernas pauperum, regum turres!*” The present writer once knew an ex-President of these United States, who had carried a piece of orris root in his pocket for several months, to prevent an attack of rheumatism to which he was subject. He said a friend had advised it, and he felt confident, from the trial, that there was efficacy in it, having escaped his dreaded complaint many months. This was, *post hoc, ergo propter hoc.* I could relate many cases, a large number of which terminated in the most deplorable and fatal consequences from the exhibition of patent medicines, but my space admonishes me to forbear.

The patent law is a useful law when confined to the arts ; but how can it be applied to the sciences ? The credulous are ever ready to think that if patent articles of manufacture are better than those made previously to the new discovery, it follows necessarily that patent medicines are better than other medicines. Many a poor ignorant wight has swallowed them to his sorrow, and when convinced by sad experience that he ought to retrace his steps, he finds it too late, his irrevocable doom is come, and he must go the way of all the earth. If the phrase “composition of matter” can refer to compound medicines, then by a multiplication of patents the exhibition of medicines in that form can be taken entirely out of the hands of the regular and scientific practitioner. But it appears that the law itself is *against* this construction. “And it is hereby enacted and declared, that simply changing the form or the proportions of any machine or composition of matter, in any degree, shall not be deemed a discovery,” page 201. It is an admitted principle that no patent ought to issue which in its probable results will retard or cripple “the progress of the useful arts.” The title of the law is “An act to promote the progress of the useful arts.” Sec. 3rd, “requires the inventor to deliver a written description of his invention, to enable any person skilled in the art, of which it is a branch or with which it is most nearly connected, to make compound and use the same.” Does not the

foregoing necessarily imply that the law is intended to benefit and improve those persons skilled in such art or science? and their approval and use of the invention can be the only rational means of its coming into general and beneficial use. Can this apply to patent medicines, many of which are advertised as "cures for all diseases"? So far from patent medicines ever "promoting the progress" of scientific medicine, all experience testifies, that all regular, intelligent and well-educated physicians, reject with disdain such puerile, nonsensical trash. Has there ever been a single instance where granting a patent for medicine, has benefited any one person besides the patentee? I have no hesitation in deciding this question in the negative, and in calling for proof to the contrary, if there be any. The cost of the patent right is never a bar to the adoption of such medicines by the profession if they had any real merit. I have been offered a patent right *gratis* to practise quackery, and fees likewise. I rejected the offer, and told the offerer that his blood might be on his own head, and practise it himself on his own risk, and at his own peril. As connected with the apothecary business, I have always refused to trade in patent articles.

All experience has proved that patent medicines are in violation of the spirit and intent of the patent law, and I take the responsibility to say in violation of the letter of the law. The practical good or bad effects of any patent, are necessarily submitted to the ultimate decision of the followers of each particular art; then is it reasonable that patents should issue for medicines, when the profession of physic have hitherto unanimously rejected all the *pretended* discoveries of interested empiricism? The patent medicine discoveries have hitherto been like the remark which Blumenbach applied to Phrenology: "All that is new is not true, and all that is true is not new." It would be a work of supererogation to attempt to prove that patent medicines are destructive of human life to a great and alarming degree. There is scarcely a member of the profession who has not witnessed numerous instances of the fatal effects of such poisons, in the hands of the vile propagators of them, or of the ignorant dupes who have purchased them. It is highly discreditable to our nation, and to this enlightened age, that the government should lend its aid, its character and support, to foster, to cherish and sustain quackery in its chameleon forms, ever varying but still the same, under the form of *nostrum*, *catholicon*, *panacea*, &c. &c. The practice of the government with respect to patent medicines, ought not to be altered or amended, but to be entirely abolished and revoked. Humanity, the honor and the national pride of our country, every interest which is dear to us as a people, all require it. We ask it at the hands of the representatives of the people; and, if duly considered, we have no hesitation in expressing our humble conviction that this request must be irresistible.

April 18th, 1835.

GAMMA.

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#### REMEDIES FOR OBSTINATE HICCOUGH.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—I noticed an inquiry from one of your correspondents in your Journal of April 22d, 1835, respecting a remedy for Hiccough, which

withstood all the usual remedies. As there is no febrile affection mentioned in the case, I presume none existed, and that it was one of idiopathic hiccough. Such a case fell under the writer's notice many years past, whilst he was a student. The subject was a healthy farmer, who was seized at his plough. His hiccoughs withstood, for *six weeks*, the remedies of the most eminent physicians, and the writer, when he visited him, counted no less than *twenty* vials of different preparations which had been prescribed without relief. But the man was cured by the prescription of a sea captain who happened to be in his vicinity. The remedy was *honey*; and the quantity prescribed, a *pound a day*. Whether the patient actually took so much, is not known. He however took enough to perform a complete cure.

A case occurred to the present writer this season, in a man aged 71, whose hiccoughs occurred in fever, but continued after the fever left him. Honey was prescribed, but the patient attributes his cure to *ether vitriol*, which was subsequently left for him, and to a diet of oysters. The latter, in a certain locality, have obtained some celebrity as remedial in hiccough. The writer, however, has been in the habit of prescribing *honey* for hiccoughs for many years, and can recommend it as a remedy safe, and very much to be depended on.

In conclusion, the writer, with your leave, would inquire of yourself or your correspondents, the method of Dr. Jenner's using *tartar emetic ointment in mania*. He has a notice of this article in his MS. Journal as having been used by that eminent physician, in this complaint, but how or to what part of the body it was applied, is omitted, nor does he at present recollect the source from whence the notice was taken. C.

☞ The writer considers inquiries and answers, of this kind, as something novel in a periodical journal; but at the same time, as highly interesting as anything which occurs in your useful and entertaining pages.

It is presumed that should the medical gentleman, who makes the inquiry, hereafter communicate for your Journal the remedy or remedies which may cure his patient of *hiccough*, your readers would be pleased and benefited to know the result.

Lebanon, Conn. April, 1835.

#### OBSTINATE HICCOUGH.

To the Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

In the No. for April 22d, communications are solicited, in behalf of a correspondent, on the subject of an "Obstinate Hiccough which comes on every day, lasting ten, twelve, and twenty-four hours," and which has thus far been only "temporarily relieved by the administration of emetics, all other medicines being wholly useless." What other remedies have been employed, we are not informed; but if the one which I am about respectfully to propose has not been resorted to, I wish it might have a trial. Singultus or hiccough is generally thought to be a convulsive motion of the diaphragm and parts adjacent. When long continued, it doubtless arises from a morbid affection of the phrenic nerve. This is

made up of branches from the third, fourth, and fifth cervical pairs. The remedy proposed is a blister on the back of the neck, extending from the second to the fifth cervical vertebræ, to be kept open as long as the benefit received shall warrant or circumstances require. Whether it operates only as a diverticulum or counter-irritant, or, through a more immediate impression on the proper nerve of the diaphragm, the writer is not prepared to decide; but it has been tried when the same affection has made its appearance in the advanced stages of fever, with immediate and complete success.

P.

New London (Conn.), April 26th, 1835.

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## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, MAY 13, 1835.

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### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

By a resolution of the Society, the time of the annual meeting was altered the last season. The Society will come together in this city on Wednesday, May 27th, at the Athenæum, in Pearl Street, at 10 o'clock in the morning. As usual, after the proceedings of the last anniversary have been read, the fellows will make choice of Counsellors for the several districts, hear reports of committees, and transact the ordinary business of the Society. At one o'clock, it has been customary to have an address delivered, to which students and gentlemen interested in the general progress of science, even if unconnected with the profession, are invited to attend. We have in vivid recollection the delightful exposé of modern quackery by the last orator, Dr. Howe, of Billerica, which was altogether superior to the dull prosings sometimes doled out to a sleepy audience in the olden time, and we unhesitatingly express a desire, in behalf of all concerned, to have his successor prepared to meet the expectations of an intelligent assembly. By next week, the name of the speaker will have been ascertained.

Previously to dining together at Faneuil Hall, it is probable that some movement will be made by the Society in relation to the erection of a Medical Hall, for their express use. It is time to have a place of their own—having been tenants at will long enough. The room now in occupancy at the Athenæum is a miserable concern, very little superior to a common cellar. All the old books belonging to the archives are as damp, and as musty too, by three years storage—being seldom read—as the most devout literary gourmand could desire. We trust there will be a liberality of feeling pervading the meeting, worthy of the age in which we live, and that it will be unanimously decided that an edifice shall be erected on some commanding site in this Athens of the North, that shall not only be honorable to the good taste and munificence of the Massachusetts Medical Society, but manifest to future generations that the study of medicine is not incompatible with taste and elegance in architectural design. All those in favor of purchasing the Adams Schoolhouse for a medical hall, ought by all means to arrive in the city at least one week before the day of meeting, in order to find its location. Surely, no

one can advocate such a measure, who has the least regard to comfort or convenience. Somewhere on the estate of the late Mr. Green, we look with earnest solicitude for the uprising of a beautiful, classically designed Temple of Medicine.

On the day following, the Counsellors hold a session. By them the President and other officers of the institution are chosen for the ensuing year. Whatever is of consequence to be known to the profession, in regard to the general doings, may be expected in a future number of the Journal.

P. S. Since the above remarks were written, by the merest accident an advertisement was discovered in a newspaper, wherein the medical public is informed that the annual discourse will be pronounced by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, of this city, a gentleman of universally acknowledged talents. Something may therefore be expected worthy of approbation, alike profitable to the faculty and honorable to himself. Why is it that such notices as this are not published in the medical journals—certainly the most appropriate organs of such intelligence? The policy of the present mode is not understood; the practice is positively inconvenient to those who do not take several newspapers, and is, withal, diametrically opposed to that admired doctrine of *live and let live*.

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#### COMPLICATION OF DISEASES.

**JAMES H. BANCROFT**, 19 years of age, about four feet high, and supposed to weigh sixty pounds, died on Sunday, May 3d, in this city, after nine years of bodily sufferings scarcely paralleled in the annals of disease. Till his seventh year, he enjoyed tolerable health, though evidently of a scrofulous habit, which he inherited from birth. He was then thrown from a horse; and from that period to the day of his death, there has been an uninterrupted series of excruciating pain and misery. There was a monstrous curvature of the spine, backward, between the shoulders—the spinous processes of the vertebrae almost protruding through the skin. The trochanter major of the right femoris was perfectly bare, and midway between the knee and hip on the outside of the left thigh, was a fistulous opening, through which the faeces had been occasionally voided, for a considerable time. His features were contracted, the expression infantile, the jaws small, like a young child's—the teeth small and decayed. The forehead was broad, and the cerebellum greatly developed. Having never gone through any pubert changes, the voice was juvenile and weak. One lung was considerably tuberculous. On the left side, the organ was sound, though there were extensive adhesions to the upper part of the chest. As the bones were more or less spongy, general disease was presumed to pervade the osseous texture.

The post-mortem examination was made by Dr. Z. B. Adams, in presence of Drs. Osgood, Gay, Parkman, Smith, and J. B. S. Jackson. An interesting history of this extraordinary case will be drawn up by Dr. Adams, which we shall lay before our readers as soon as he has prepared it.

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#### BOSTON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting for the choice of officers, was held at the Medical College, Mason Street, on Monday, May 4th. Dr. Homans in the chair.

Dr. Martin Gay, after having read the records of the last meeting, requested not to be considered a candidate for the office of Secretary. There were ten members admitted to the Association the past year; and three have died, viz.—Drs. Dixwell, Williams, and S. H. Smith. Dr. D. H. Storer was elected Secretary, on the first ballot. Drs. John Randall, Jacob Bigelow, John B. Brown, George Hayward, and John Ware, were elected a standing committee. A committee of five was appointed for the purpose of petitioning the City Council on the subject of the bill of mortality, consisting of Drs. Enoch Hale, Jr., J. Greely Stevenson, Joseph W. M'Keen, John Ware, J. V. C. Smith, and D. H. Storer.

On motion of Dr. Ware, it was voted that a committee be appointed to consider the expediency of stating to the city government the opinion of the Boston Medical Association, that the introduction of pure water will be a measure highly conducive to the future health of this city, and with power to make this statement, if they think it expedient. The committee consists of Drs. John C. Warren, Benjamin Shurtleff, John Ware, C. T. Jackson and George Hayward.

The meeting was one of business, and though the members were together but a very short time, every one seemed in good spirits and interested in the affairs of the Association. When we have more leisure than at the present moment, some remarks may be expected in relation to the duties to be performed by the several committees.

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*Hydrostatic Beds.*—The Boston and Lynn India Rubber Company manufacture a beautiful article—the hydrostatic bed, which must eventually be introduced into hospitals. It is constructed in the following manner. A box, about six feet six inches long, by thirty-two inches in width, is made perfectly air and water tight, and filled with warm or cold water, as may be desired. Over the surface of the water, is an India rubber cloth sheet, impervious also, with a slack of about nine inches. A sick person derives extraordinary comfort from this simple contrivance—and a well man actually luxuriates upon it.

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*Boston Society for Medical Improvement.*—For several years, an association, bearing this name, has existed in Boston. The members hold their meetings once in two weeks, in the evening, for the purpose of reading papers on medical subjects, discussing questions of general interest to physicians, detailing the treatment of cases, for the mutual benefit of the whole, and for transacting such kinds of business as necessarily come before them. There are not far from one hundred practitioners in the city; and as it is quite impossible that they should all belong to this one society, without so much multiplying the machinery as to embarrass the proceedings, it has been suggested that one or two more should be formed, that all might participate in the great advantages resulting from this excellent system of mutual instruction.

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*Medical Library.*—The Massachusetts Medical Society have annually presented each member with a volume, the last few years, at the expense of the treasury—under the general title of the *Medical Library*. Owing to some unfortunate event, growing out of the failure of an extensive pub-

lishing house, since the last meeting in 1834, it is said no book will be given out the present season. Admitting this to be true, a hope is indulged that the committee charged with the duty have, ere this, had time for making arrangements to procure some work, even if not so valuable as Copland's Dictionary, that the fellows may have some tangible memorial of their meeting in 1835.

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**Papillary Shield.**—Dr. Buxton, of Woburn, Mass. has invented and patented an ingenious contrivance by which an infant is enabled to draw the breast, without that pain to the mother which invariably ensues when the organ is excoriated or inflamed. A specimen is left at the Journal office, which we invite medical gentlemen to call and inspect. The principle of operation is certainly excellent, but we believe Dr. Buxton may improve it very much by substituting a lighter kind of wood.

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**Memoirs of Apothecaries.**—It is understood there is extant, in this city, a manuscript memoir of the apothecaries of Boston, brought down to within about twenty-five years of the present time, which would doubtless be a very entertaining mélange of demi-professional biography. Should we be so fortunate as to obtain possession of it, whatever appears most worthy of preservation will be extracted.

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**Trusses.**—Next to pills and plaisters, the everlasting hobbies of quacks, in all countries, *trusses* hold a distinguished place. One unacquainted with the nefarious trickery of those who collect fortunes out of the lame, the halt and the blind, would suppose that all mankind needed to be braced up in trusses. One half the puffing to increase the sale of these mechanical agents, at least, should be received very cautiously.—Hundreds wear trusses who would be manifestly better without them, as they only aggravate the misfortune they speciously pretend to remedy. Those suffering from ruptures should invariably consult a well-informed surgeon upon the kind of truss which will prove most beneficial.

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**Dissecting Instruments.**—No person ever bought a common case of dissecting knives and the accompanying apparatus of hooks, forceps, needles and blow-pipe, without being fully persuaded they were exorbitantly dear. English cutlery for this purpose has been erroneously prized above that of American manufacture; yet nothing can be more ridiculous. The Philadelphia and Boston made dissecting cases are equal in every respect to any of foreign make. If our cutlers, who are complete masters of their business, will agree to supply the profession at a little lower rate, they would most effectually put a stop to the importation of English cases of surgical instruments. It is an egregious mistake to ask more for a thing than it is really worth to the buyer. With regard to lancets, tooth keys, trocars, trepanning saws, stomach pumps, syringes, amputating, dissecting and obstetric forceps, beside some other articles of considerable importance, not immediately in recollection, they have always been, from the first settlement of the country to the present day, much too costly. The profit on them has been immense to those who have purchased to sell again. It is time to have a revolution in this matter; the faculty have been filched quite long enough.

**State Lunatic Hospital.**—In the course of the present month, additional buildings will be commenced at Worcester, for the accommodation of the inmates of that institution—which in the eye of the law are to be considered an enlargement of the present edifice. The additions are to consist of two parts, each one hundred feet by thirty-four, to be attached to the extreme ends of the first building, and running back at right angles with it. The elevation is to consist of three stories above the sub-basement. Each story is to be nine feet in the rear.

Will some of our correspondents in Maine have the kindness to inform us what progress is making in that State, relative to the erection of their State Lunatic Asylum?

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**Tourniquets.**—Cannot some improvement be made in these indispensable instruments? In the first place, they have always been too costly; and in the second, unnecessarily complicated. It is a desideratum to have one both simple in structure and reasonable in price. Any mechanic who can accomplish these two points, may be sure of an unoccupied market.

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**Human Organography.**—This is some part of the title of an elegant series of lithographic plates, illustrative of the structure of the human body, by Sarlandière, translated from the French by W. C. Roberts, M.D. of New York, where the work has been published. Those who have examined the drawings, have uniformly considered them exceedingly valuable to anatomists, and particularly so to students of medicine. We are far from the opinion that it is a dear work. Several copies are on sale at this office, to which the attention of medical gentlemen is invited.

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**Smallpox.**—The smallpox has again made its appearance at Mobile, and likewise in several small towns on the Alabama river.

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**Death from Rupture of a Varix.**—Dr. Elsaesser has published three cases of death, in consequence of the rupture of varices during labor; the varices were situated in the external labia. M. Riecke also mentions three cases of the same nature: the first patient was saved by applying cold fomentations; the second patient died; and in the third case, the tumor was discovered by compression.

These cases unfortunately are not so rare as is generally supposed; a number of them are detailed in the memoir of M. Deneux, *Sur les Tumeurs Sanguines de la Vulve et du Vagin*; Paris, 1830.

*Constitution Médicale.*

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**To CORRESPONDENTS.**—The interesting history of the late epidemic at Dedham by Dr. Jackson, and the communication from Dr. Utley, came too late for the present number.—Dr. Gallup's paper will also have an early insertion.

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**DIED**—At Newport, R. I. Dr. James Taylor, aged 63.—Charles Kegan, Esq. late of the East India Bengal Medical Establishment, 72.

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Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending May 9, 20. Males, 11—Females, 9.  
Of lung fever, 2—dropsy on the brain, 2—consumption, 5—scrofula, 1—infantile, 1—old age, 3—insanity, 1—dropsy, 1—lethargy, 1—tumor, 1—apoplexy, 1. Stillborn, 4.

## MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers have associated for the purpose of giving Medical Instruction on the following terms:—

Convenient Rooms well furnished, with access to a good Medical Library, and the necessary facilities for demonstrative Anatomy and Surgical operations.

The privilege of attending at the almshouse and a private hospital, now in successful operation, together with the important cases, both in physic and surgery, which occur in a pretty extensive private practice. Terms—\$50 a year.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.

Instruction in modern Dentistry will be given for a small additional compensation.

May 13.

JOSEPH H. FLINT,  
ELISHA MATHER,  
AUSTIN FLINT.

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**DR. BUXTON'S PATENT PAPILLARY SHIELD, OR PROTECTOR, FOR LADIES' SORE NIPPLES.**—This new and useful instrument guards the nipple from all external pressure, and allows the milk to be drawn away by the child with perfect ease and freedom. It consists of a circular stock of wood, ivory, or other suitable material; the lower part of which is about two inches in diameter, and forms an exterior rim of about one third of an inch around the superior part of the stock, which is also circular, and is about an inch and a half in diameter and about an inch deep. A circular chamber of about one inch in diameter is perforated through the lower centre of the stock. This chamber receives the nipple, when the lower surface of the stock, which is rendered slightly concave, is applied to the breast. By a metallic plate inserted in the top of the stock, is fixed a tent covered with gum elastic, for the accommodation of the child's mouth. In the side of the instrument is a small aperture communicating with the chamber, closed on the outside by a spring key, the use of which is to supply the chamber with atmospheric air, when necessary; air being the only pressure required to expel the milk through the excretory ducts of the lacteal glands or vessels of the nipple.

In using the above instrument it is necessary that its chamber should be large, moderate, or small, according to the size of the nipple—therefore the purchaser should ask for a proper sized one—as a perfect operation depends upon this precaution.

Sold wholesale and retail in Boston, by WILLIAM WARD, No's 23 and 27 India street, and PEIRSON & ROVLAND, Apothecaries' Hall, 183 Washington street, and Apothecaries generally.

## MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of MEDICAL INSTRUCTION, and will receive pupils on the following terms:

The pupils will be admitted to the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and will receive Clinical Lectures on the cases which they witness there.

Instruction, by examination or lectures, will be given in the intervals of the Public Lectures of the University.

On Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children, and on Chemistry	By DR. CHANNING.
On Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, and Materia Medica	By DR. WARE.
On the Principles and Practice of Surgery	By DR. OTIS.
On Anatomy, Human and Comparative	By DR. LEWIS.

For the greater accommodation of the Class, a room is provided in the house of one of the instructors, having in it a large library, and furnished with lights and fuel, without charge to the students.

The Fees will be, for one year, \$100. Six months, \$50. Three months, \$25.

The Fees are to be paid in advance. No credit will be given, except on sufficient security of some person in Boston, nor for a longer period than six months.

Applications are to be made to DR. WALTER CHANNING, Tremont Street, opposite the Tremont House, Boston.

6m.

WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.

Boston, April 1, 1835.

## MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EDUCATION.

THE subscriber continues to receive medical pupils at the United States Marine Hospital, Chelsea, and to offer them the following advantages.

The institution at present contains seventy beds: all of which are occupied during the autumn and winter by the subjects, both of medical and surgical treatment. The number of patients in the spring and summer is rather less. The average number daily, throughout the last year, was between fifty-five and sixty. The number is annually increasing. A greater variety of disease is thus presented, than is to be found in those hospitals exclusively appropriated to the poor of any city.

The students have unrestrained access to these cases during all hours: as also to the extensive apothecary shop connected with the establishment.

A valuable medical library is offered for their use.

Facilities for the cultivation of demonstrative anatomy, are afforded through the winter.

The students are provided with a suitable apartment in the hospital, which is furnished with fuel and lights, without charge.

Fees, \$50 a year.

Board may be procured in the vicinity of the hospital, at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

Boston, April 21, 1835.

(April 29.—3t.)

C. H. STEDMAN.

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